

What is claimed is:

1. A radio apparatus comprising:

tuning circuitry for selecting a channel from an input rf spectrum;

5 an output for driving a speaker system with an audio presentation derived from the selected channel; and

10 a recording apparatus having a memory with capacity for recording a fixed time duration  $T$  of the audio presentation, and adapted to make an audio record sequentially in a circular fashion, such that when the memory capacity is filled, the device continues to record, overwriting the oldest recorded information, providing thereby, at any point in time, a stored copy of time duration  $T$  immediately preceding the point in time.

15 2. The radio apparatus of claim 1 wherein the recording apparatus comprises a tape recorder adapted to record in a circular fashion.

20 3. The radio apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an A/D converter, wherein the memory is a digital memory managed to record sequentially in a circular fashion, and the audio presentation is presented at the speakers and simultaneously digitized and recorded in the digital memory.

25 4. The radio apparatus of claim 1 further comprising user-operable inputs for interrupting circular recording, selecting beginning positions for playback, and playing back the recorded data.

5. An add-on recorder for a radio apparatus, comprising:

an input for receiving an analog audio signal stream from a radio;  
an output for driving a speaker system; and  
a memory system with capacity for recording a fixed time duration  $T$   
of received analog audio signals, and adapted to make an audio record in the  
5 memory sequentially in a circular fashion, such that when the memory  
capacity is filled, the system continues to record, overwriting the oldest  
recorded information, providing thereby, at any point in time, a stored copy  
of time duration  $T$  immediately preceding the point in time.

10 6. The add-on recorder of claim 5 wherein the memory system comprises a  
tape recorder adapted to record in a circular fashion.

15 7. The add-on recorder of claim 5 further comprising an A/D converter,  
wherein the memory system comprises a digital memory managed to record  
sequentially in a circular fashion, and the received analog audio signal  
stream is sent to the speaker system via the output and simultaneously  
digitized and recorded in the digital memory.

20 8. The add-on recorder of claim 5 further comprising user-operable inputs  
for interrupting circular recording, selecting beginning positions for  
playback, and playing back the recorded data.

25 9. A television apparatus comprising:  
tuning circuitry for selecting a channel from an input video  
spectrum;  
an output for driving a television display with a video presentation  
derived from the selected channel; and

a recording apparatus having a memory with capacity for recording a fixed time duration  $T$  of the video presentation, and adapted to make a video record sequentially in a circular fashion, such that when the memory capacity is filled, the apparatus continues to record, overwriting the oldest recorded information, providing thereby, at any point in time, a stored copy of time duration  $T$  immediately preceding the point in time.

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10. The television apparatus of claim 9 wherein the recording apparatus comprises a video tape recorder adapted to record in a circular fashion.

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11. The television apparatus of claim 9 further comprising an A/D converter, wherein the memory is a digital memory managed to record sequentially in a circular fashion, and the video presentation is presented at the television display and simultaneously digitized and recorded in the digital memory.

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12. The television apparatus of claim 9 further comprising user-operable inputs for interrupting circular recording, selecting beginning positions for playback, and playing back the recorded data.

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13. An add-on recorder for a television apparatus, comprising:

an input for receiving a video data stream;

an output for driving a television display system; and

a memory system with capacity for recording a fixed time duration  $T$

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of the received video data stream, and adapted to make record in the memory sequentially in a circular fashion, such that when the memory capacity is filled, the system continues to record, overwriting the oldest

recorded information, providing thereby, at any point in time, a stored copy of time duration T immediately preceding the point in time.

14. The add-on recorder of claim 13 wherein the memory system comprises  
5 a video tape recorder adapted to record in a circular fashion.

15. The add-on recorder of claim 13 further comprising an A/D converter,  
wherein the memory system comprises a digital memory managed to record  
sequentially in a circular fashion, and the received video data stream is sent  
10 to the television display via the output and simultaneously digitized and  
recorded in the digital memory.

16. The add-on recorder of claim 13 further comprising user-operable inputs  
for interrupting circular recording, selecting beginning positions for  
15 playback, and playing back the recorded data.

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